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Late Backup

OPERATING BUDGET
FISCAL NOTE

DATE OF COUNCIL CONSIDERATION:
CONTACT DEPARTMENT(S):
FUND:

9/22/11
Law; Office of the City Clerk
Support Services Fund

SUBJECT: Approve an Ordinance authorizing a May 2012 general election date or a Resolution authorizing a November 2012 general election date.

CURRENT YEAR IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact for this item in FY 2011.

FIVE-YEAR IMPACT: The increased unbudgeted expenses for the purchase of voting machines are shown below for a May 2012 election and assume that a runoff election would be required. In the event that a runoff is not required, the increased unbudgeted expenses are estimated at \$336,470. If a November 2012 election is held, no increased unbudgeted expenses are estimated.

	<u>FY 2011</u>	<u>FY 2012</u>	<u>FY 2013</u>	<u>FY 2014</u>	<u>FY 2015</u>
Total Revenue	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Election Costs	<u>0</u>	<u>3,177,770</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Net Budget Impact	<u>0</u>	<u>(3,177,770)</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>

ANALYSIS / ADDITIONAL INFORMATION: Holding the election in May 2012 will have a fiscal impact on the FY 2012 Budget. The FY 2012 Budget currently includes \$786,269 for the May 2012 election and, if needed, a June runoff. The total estimated additional costs for not moving the May election to November 2012 is \$3,177,770 if a June runoff is needed. If no runoff is required, additional costs are estimated to be \$336,470 and could likely be appropriated from the ending FY 2011 fund balance of the Support Services Fund. However, if a June runoff is required, additional costs of \$2.8 million to purchase voting machines for the runoff could not likely be absorbed by the Support Services Fund ending balance and would require a budget amendment across city funds to provide the underlying funding needed to support the new appropriation. Of this total, approximately \$820,000 is estimated to impact the General Fund and approximately \$1.4 million would impact Austin Energy. These additional election costs would be shared city-wide across many departments and would be allocated in accordance with the methodology used in the City's Annual Support Services Cost Allocation Plan. Should Council decide to hold a May 2012 election, a funding plan and budget amendment would need to be brought forward on a future Council agenda after consulting further with the Law Department and the Travis County Clerk to refine cost estimates. The Travis County Clerk has indicated to the Law Department that various funding options might be feasible if additional machines are needed, including amortization of the capital costs over time.